

A Resolution to Request a Better Transparency of the International Fee

Vincent Liu (for himself, Michael Frank, and Sophie Chang) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

Whereas the International Fee has risen from \$498 to \$996 for all international students enrolled at the Ohio State University AU 2015 and after,¹ and

Whereas within the same fee explanation, the International Fee is designed to “provide resources for international students, including academic support services, and provides resources for university-wide strategic investments,”¹ and

Whereas the defined “academic support services”¹ has ample room to grow, as a great number of international students are exempt from the English as Second Language (ESL) programs, and the current state of the ESL programs are very limited and for many students who are taking it, it seems “not very helpful,”² and

Whereas the statement that the International Fee is used for “enhancement of temporary housing,” remains questionable. On-campus temporary housing “may be available ONLY” for students with housing contracts, charging \$35 per night they stay,³ and

Whereas in addition, the Ohio State University does not provide discounts or assistance on off-campus temporary housing options. Office of International Affairs asks students to “be sure to mention that you are an Ohio State student or staff member” when booking hotels around campus, including Blackwell Inn, Fairfield Inn, Hilton Garden Inn Columbus-University Area etc. while these hotels do not have discounts for students arriving in Columbus (Hilton Garden Inn only provides discounts for “Ohio State business trips,”)⁴ and

Whereas the International Fee is also being used for “university-wide strategic investments,”¹ including but not limited to scholarships, housing and dining charges, and framework expansion, investments that are supposed to be paid and contributed to by all students instead of the international community only, and

¹ <https://registrar.osu.edu/policies/feesexplanation.asp>

² Information collected via student interviews.

³ <https://oia.osu.edu/int-scholars-life-at-ohio-state/living-in-columbus/temporary-housing.html>

⁴ Information collected via phone calls on Jan.9, 2017.

41 **Whereas** according to Student Service Center (SSC), International Fee is designed for legal
42 documents such as visa and I-20, as well as to support international students on academic
43 purposes and social purposes,⁵ and
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45 **Whereas** SSC recognizes that the International Fee can be a financial burden to international
46 students, thus grandfathered out the students enrolled before AU2015, and
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48 **Whereas** the SSC also expects to create new programs and develop the existing programs
49 targeting international students with the revenue, and
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51 **Whereas** such “new programs and other needs” are never addressed in the conversation, nor has
52 there been any changes to the community after the new International Fee was adopted, and
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54 **Whereas** the Ohio State University already charges a significantly higher amount of money for
55 international students than other American higher education institutions with better or similar
56 worldwide recognition,^{6,7} and it would be unwise to continue increasing this particular
57 surcharge, and
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59 **Whereas** the International Fee is now being sent to the Board of Trustees directly, without
60 consulting the University Senate Fiscal Committee, and
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62 **Therefore Let it Be Resolved** the Undergraduate Student Government, on behalf of the 3,659
63 undergraduate international students (as of AU 2016) at the Ohio State University, requests a
64 better, more transparent explanation of the International Fee, and
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66 **Let It Further Be Resolved** the Undergraduate Student Government suggests that the described
67 fee explanation report be published at the end of the Spring semester annually, and
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69 **Let It Further Be Resolved** the Undergraduate Student Government recommends the university
70 Board of Trustees to route any changes to the International Fee to the University Senate Fiscal
71 Committee, along with the fee explanation reports above.
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74 Floor Vote: Passed.
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⁵ Information collected via phone call on Nov.16, 2016.

⁶ <https://iss.wisc.edu/announcements/2015/international-student-fees>

⁷ <https://global.psu.edu/info/internationals-psu/students/pre-arrival/financial-information/international-student-fee>

⁸ <https://f2.washington.edu/fm/sfs/tuition/components>

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Gerard C. Basalla
Gerard Basalla
President

Danielle M. DiScala
Danielle Di Scala
Vice President

Date Adopted: 2/1/17

Date Terminated: _____